What is claimed is:

1. A method for the treatment of varices, comprising the steps of:

a. inserting a catheter into a blood vessel and advancing a distal end of said catheter to a position proximate to at least one varix;

b. inserting an optical waveguide, whose proximal end is connected to a radiation source and whose distal end comprises a radiation distribution means, into said catheter;

c. advancing said distal end of said waveguide through said distal end of said catheter to a predetermined point near said at least one varix;

d. irradiating said varix with radiation from said radiation source so as to cause closure of said at least one varix.

2. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said waveguide is selected from the group consisting of an optical fiber and an optical fiber bundle.

3. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said at least one varix is selected from the group consisting of a varicocele, a female pelvic varix, and an oesophageal varix.

4. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said radiation distribution device is selected from a group consisting of a bare fiber tip and a diffuser.

5. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said radiation source is selected from a group consisting of a diode laser and a diode laser array.

6. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said radiation has a wavelength of 980 nm.

7. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined point is 1 cm from said distal end of said catheter.

8. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, wherein said irradiation step is accomplished by employing a series of pulses.

9. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of utilizing x-ray and angiographic imaging to view a path of said catheter during said catheter insertion step.

10. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of utilizing echo color doppler ultrasound to view a path of said catheter during said catheter insertion step.

11. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 1, comprising the additional step of performing an additional angiography after said irradiation step to confirm closure of said varix.

12. The method for treatment of varices according to claim 2, wherein said optical fiber has a diameter of preferably 400 microns.